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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/897,279 | 07/02/2001 | Wiland Von Wendorff | J&R-0680 | 2028 |

24131 7590 07/12/2005

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EXAMINER

FAN, CHIEH M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2638

DATE MAILED: 07/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SM

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/897,279

Applicant(s)

WENDORFF, WILAND VON

Examiner

Chieh M. Fan

Art Unit

2638

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 January 2005.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 9-11 is/are rejected.
7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-8, 12 and 13 is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 July 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Robillard et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,706,278, "Robillard" hereinafter).

Regarding claim 1, Robillard teaches a synchronous network, comprising: nodes (12, 14, 16, 18, and 20 in Fig. 1) transmitting data to one another in a predefined sequence for a predefined duration (col. 8, lines 24-33), a plurality of said nodes outputting a synchronization signal defining a reference time for a synchronization of said nodes (col. 8, lines 39-42 and 51-52).

Regarding claims 9 and 10, as described in col. 8, lines 44-46, the synchronization signal is transmitted in slots 81 and 86.

Regarding claim 11, as described in col. 8, lines 41-42, each of the remote nodes transmits the synchronization signal.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robillard et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,706,278, "Robillard" hereinafter) in view of Takayama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,963,868, "Takayama" hereinafter) and Symanski (U.S. 4,015,252).

Regarding claim 3, Robillard teaches the claimed limitation as applied to claim 1 above, but does not particularly teach that the synchronization signal is encoded using one of an NRZ code, a XERXES code and a Manchester code. The use of a synchronization signal encoded using one of an NRZ code, a XERXES code and a Manchester code is well known in the art. Takayama teaches a synchronization signal encoded using an NRZ code (col. 8, lines 1-3). Symanski teaches that the use of NRZ has a major advantage of low bandwidth requirement (col. 1, lines 31-32). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to encode the synchronization signal using an NRZ code for the advantage of low bandwidth requirement.

Regarding claim 2, as admitted by the applicant in page 24, lines 8-14, the claimed limitation is the property when the synchronization signal encoded using an NRZ code. As the synchronization signal taught by Robillard in view of Takayama and Symanski is encoded using an NRZ code, the claimed limitation is inherently met.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 4-8, 12 and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 9-11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Harrtsen (U.S. Patent No. 6,028,853) and Sugaya et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,804,209).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chieh M. Fan whose telephone number is (571) 272-3042. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00AM-5:30PM, Alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kenneth Vanderpuye can be reached on (571) 272-3078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Chieh M Fan
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2638

July 9, 2005